

**OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN CHRIS CARNEY AS PREPARED
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MANAGEMENT INVESTIGATIONS & OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

“Laying the Framework for the Task Ahead: An Examination of the Department of Homeland Security’s Quadrennial Homeland Security Review”

Thursday, April 29, 2010

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the Department of Homeland Security’s completion of its first Quadrennial Homeland Security Review (QHSR). This subcommittee has held a hearing and had multiple briefings on this topic both in the 110th and 111th Congress.

I know that myself, the Ranking Member, and all members of this subcommittee took a particular interest in the QHSR because we recognize how instrumental it can be in shaping Homeland Security policy and guiding the Department toward better protecting our country. We will examine the Department’s process for completing the QHSR; its plans for implementing the new policies contained within the document; and whether the final product meets legislative requirements.

The QHSR is a comprehensive assessment outlining the long-term strategy and priorities for homeland security and guidance on the Department’s programs, assets, capabilities, budget, policies, and authorities. According to the statute, the first QHSR was required to be submitted to Congress by December 31, 2009.

However, it wasn’t until February 1, 2010 - over a month after the required date - that the Committee on Homeland Security received the QHSR. The most frustrating thing about this missed deadline was that for a year and a half prior to the deadline this subcommittee had repeatedly asked the Department if it was going to be on time and if it needed more personnel or more funding. We were consistently told the Department had everything it needed to produce an on-time, quality product. We now know that was not the case.

The 9/11 Act specifically delineates the information that is required to be included in the QHSR. Yet some of the statutorily mandated items were not included in the QHSR. Missing was a description of the interagency cooperation, preparedness of Federal response assets, infrastructure, budget plan, and other elements of the homeland security program. An assessment of the organizational alignment of the Department with the applicable national homeland security strategy was not included.

Also missing was a discussion of the status of cooperation among Federal agencies in the effort to promote national homeland security. And there was no discussion of the status of cooperation between the Federal Government and State, local, and tribal governments in preventing terrorist attacks and preparing for emergency response to threats to national homeland security.

This is wholly unacceptable - these items were statutorily mandated to be included in the QHSR. These were not suggestions and they were not optional. The lack of guidance on these items under-cuts our national security.

I am anxiously awaiting the release of the Bottom Up Review (BUR). I was first told by the Department that the BUR would be released in late March. Then I was told early April. And then late April. I will be very interested in hearing today whether the Department has set a date for the release of the BUR. Much of the information that was included in the BUR was supposed to be delivered in the QHSR almost five months ago. The BUR is not a statutorily mandated report. The QHSR was. It is my sincere hope that the next QHSR will be a complete product that doesn’t require a follow on review to complement it and excuses as to why it was not released on time.